

## ***Iowa Community Empowerment***

Program Name	Iowa Community Empowerment (established by legislation during the 1998 session)
	Shanell Wagler, Facilitator, Office of Empowerment, Department of Management

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Children /Families served (Birth to 5-year-olds)	Children ages 0 – 5 and families
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Target audience	Children, ages 0 – 5, families and early care, health and education providers
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Program purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• By the end of the year 2005, every community in Iowa will have developed the capacity and commitment for achieving these five results:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Healthy Children</li><li>2. Children Ready to Succeed in School</li><li>3. Safe and Supportive Communities</li><li>4. Secure and Nurturing Families</li><li>5. Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments</li></ol></li><li>• Enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health and human services programs on behalf of children, families and other citizens residing in the area.</li><li>• Create a partnership between communities and state government</li></ul>
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Program description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 58 Community Empowerment Areas – representing all 99 counties</li><li>• State Level – Office of Empowerment and TA supported by interagency collaboration from the Departments of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education;</li><li>• Human Rights;</li><li>• Human Services;</li><li>• Management;</li><li>• Public Health; and</li><li>• Economic Development</li></ul></li><li>• Iowa Empowerment Board – 2005 Leadership Agenda: Achieving Results; Collaboration; and EC Advocacy</li><li>• Local Level - CEA Boards – Citizen-led boards charged with:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-- Supporting activities to promote collaboration; and</li><li>-- Developing systems in the community for young children and their families</li></ul></li></ul>
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- Board memberships required: 51% citizen or elected official; and Representatives from *faith, consumer, human services, education and health*.

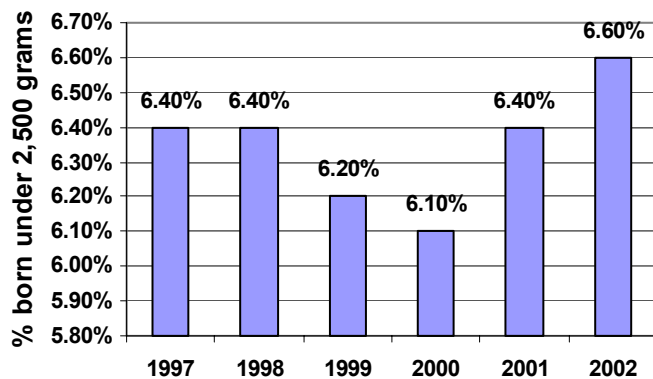
Funding source/allocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FFY</li> <li>• SFY</li> </ul>	SFY 2005 State – \$15,334,884 (School Ready through DE) Federal – \$7,259,000 (Early Childhood through DHS)
	<p>Projected expenditures for FY 05 by various categories are available upon request. Previous years are in the Annual Report</p>
Identifiable indicators of quality	<p>State Level Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Low birth weight</li> <li>•Rate of immunization by age 2</li> <li>•Children entering kindergarten are ready for school</li> <li>•Serious crime (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault)</li> <li>•Juvenile arrests</li> <li>•Poverty level</li> <li>•Employment rate</li> <li>•Incidence of child abuse</li> <li>•Teen birth rate</li> <li>•Child abuse in a child care setting</li> <li>•Availability of child care</li> </ul> <p>Community Empowerment Areas submit Annual Reports, including collaborative efforts and partnerships, data on local indicators, and performance measures data on early care, health and education services and programs funded through early childhood and school ready funds.</p> <p>Community Empowerment Areas go through a redesignation process every three years, including a self-evaluation and a redesignation visit from members of the State team.</p>
Results (Outcomes achieved)	<p>See Achieving Results section of the 2004 Annual Report for data on State Indicators and local CEA Showcases of outcomes achieved.</p>

## State Results and Indicators

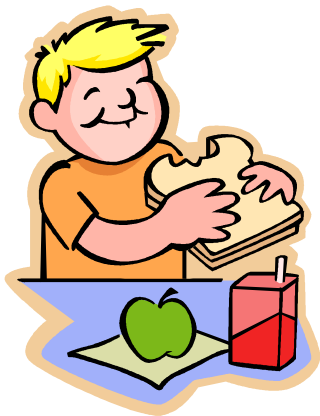
### Healthy Children

To learn and grow at optimal rates, children need to be healthy. Community Empowerment supports a variety of activities to make health services available to pregnant women, infants and young children. Communities have implemented services to identify health and developmental problems early when interventions can be more effective. Home visitation, prenatal care and well-baby exams including immunizations and lead screens, and parent education have been expanded through Community Empowerment.

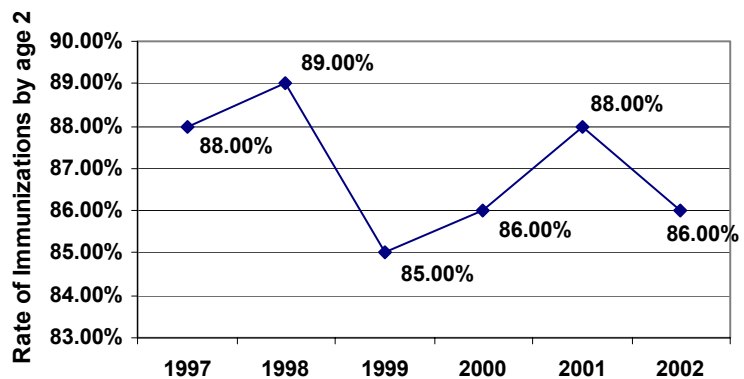
**Low Birth Weight**



93% of Iowa's children under age 18 have health insurance coverage (U.S. Census Bureau Current Population Survey 2001, 2002, 2003).



**Immunizations (Public Clinics Only)**



## State Results and Indicators

# Children Ready to Succeed in School

This year the measure for Children Ready to Succeed in school was revised to address the collection of individual child assessment data. *Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)* is a standardized, individually administered measure of early literacy development. DIBELS is not a comprehensive assessment but rather a research-based **indicator** of literacy skills. Multiple assessment approaches are needed at the local level to monitor the various aspects of children's development (i.e. motor, social-emotional, self-management) for further local decision making.

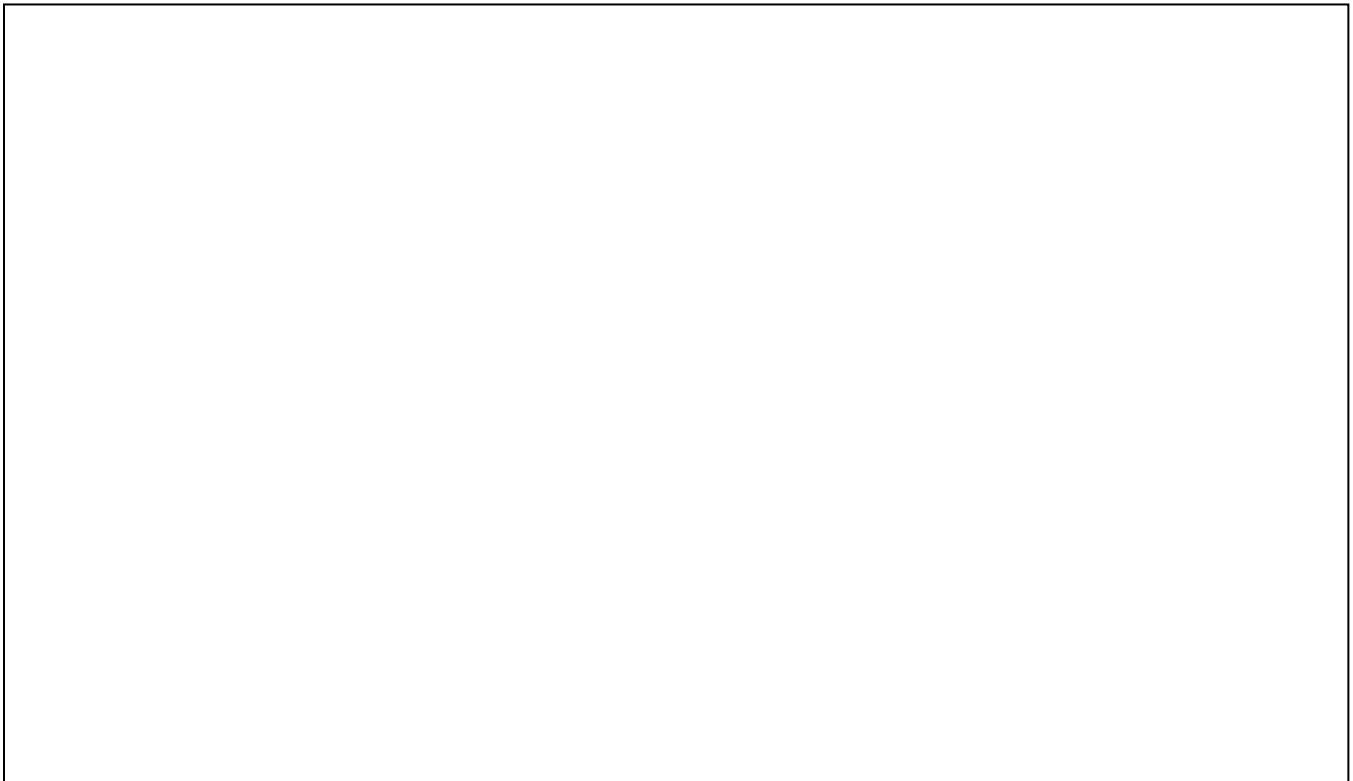
Two subtests appropriate for kindergarten students, Initial Sound Fluency (ISF) and Letter Naming Fluency (LNF) were piloted this year. Initial sounds are an important concept in reading success while letter naming is an important predictor of reading success. The results are indicated in Figures 1 and 2 below.

As seen in Figure 1 approximately 15% of the children assessed are at risk of reading failure due to their lack of understanding about initial sounds, unless intensive intervention is provided. An additional 20% are at some risk of having difficulty with the concept of initial sounds while 65% are likely to achieve this concept given quality instruction. Of this sample approximately 11% of the children have achieved this benchmark for winter of kindergarten indicating that these children currently have an understanding of initial sounds.

## State Results and Indicators

### Children Ready to Succeed in School

Figure 2 indicates that approximately 13% of the children assessed are at risk for having difficulty in learning to read unless intensive intervention is provided. An additional 20% are at some risk for having difficulty learning to read. Of this sample approximately 67% of the children are on track for learning to read based on their performance on LNF which is a highly reliable and valid predictor of reading success.

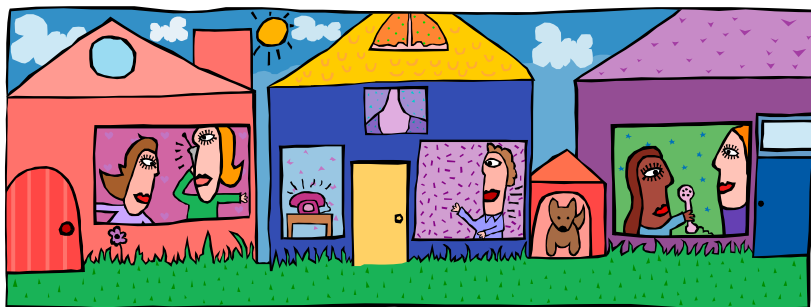
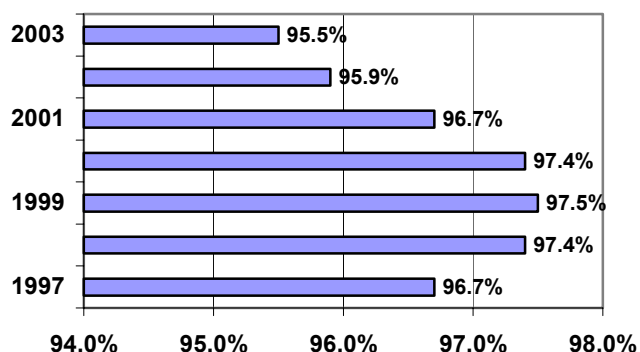


## State Results and Indicators

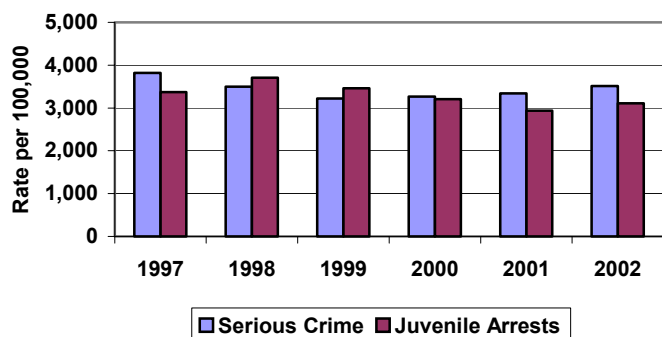
### Safe and Supportive Communities

Collaboration and local decision making are basic principles of Community Empowerment. It is believed that citizens in their own communities will identify and implement the best means for attaining desired results. Community Empowerment Area boards comprised of community leaders including education, health, human services, faith, business and consumers work together to plan and fund programs that will best meet the needs of their local community. Implementation of community plans focusing on early childhood establishes the structure and community supports necessary to ensure on-going success.

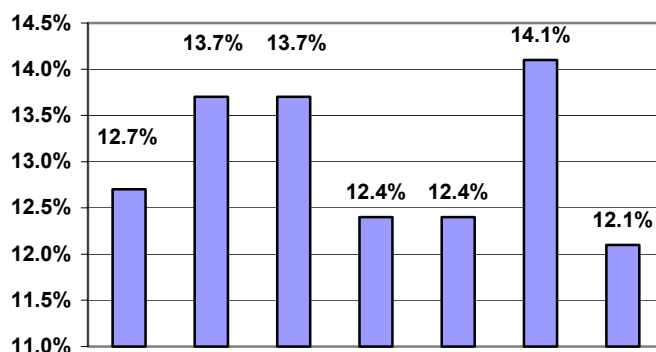
**Employment Rate**



**Serious Crime/Juvenile Arrests**



**Percent in Poverty (Age 18 and under)**



#### KIDS COUNT RANKINGS – 2004 report

The 2004 Kids Count ranks Iowa 4<sup>th</sup> best in the nation for children, based on indicators of well being. The indicators include:

9<sup>th</sup> best for Teen birth rate per 1,000 females ages 15-17 (17/1,000)

4<sup>th</sup> best for children living in poverty (11%)

2<sup>nd</sup> best for the percent of teen who are high school dropouts ages 16 – 19 (5%)

Best in the nation for the percent of children living in families where no parent has full time, year round employment (17%)

4<sup>th</sup> best for the percent of families with children headed by a single parent (23%)

## State Results and Indicators

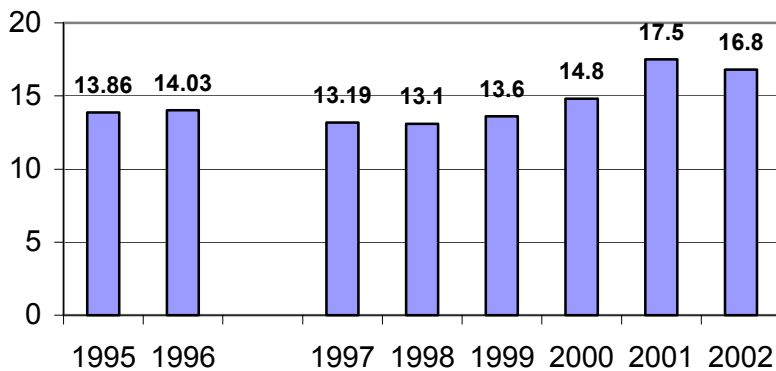
### Secure and Nurturing Families

Community Empowerment Areas are encouraged to commit 60% of School Ready funds towards family support and parent education activities. Community Empowerment provides families with advocacy, information, education, and support. Examples of services include family resource centers, training in parenting skills, parent education opportunities, family literacy, and home visiting programs.

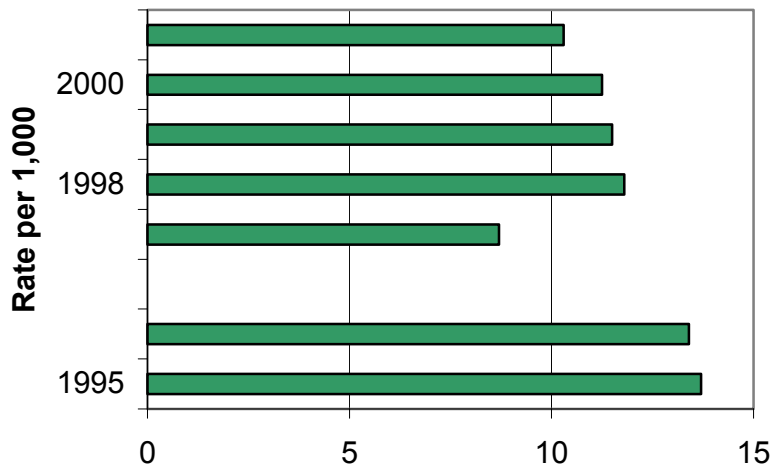
Families in Iowa have a great need for support:

- Iowa ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation in the percentage of families with preschool children in which all parents in the household are employed.
- The majority of mothers with children under the age of five are in the workforce.

**Incidence of Child Abuse**  
(Rate per 1,000 - NCCANDS)



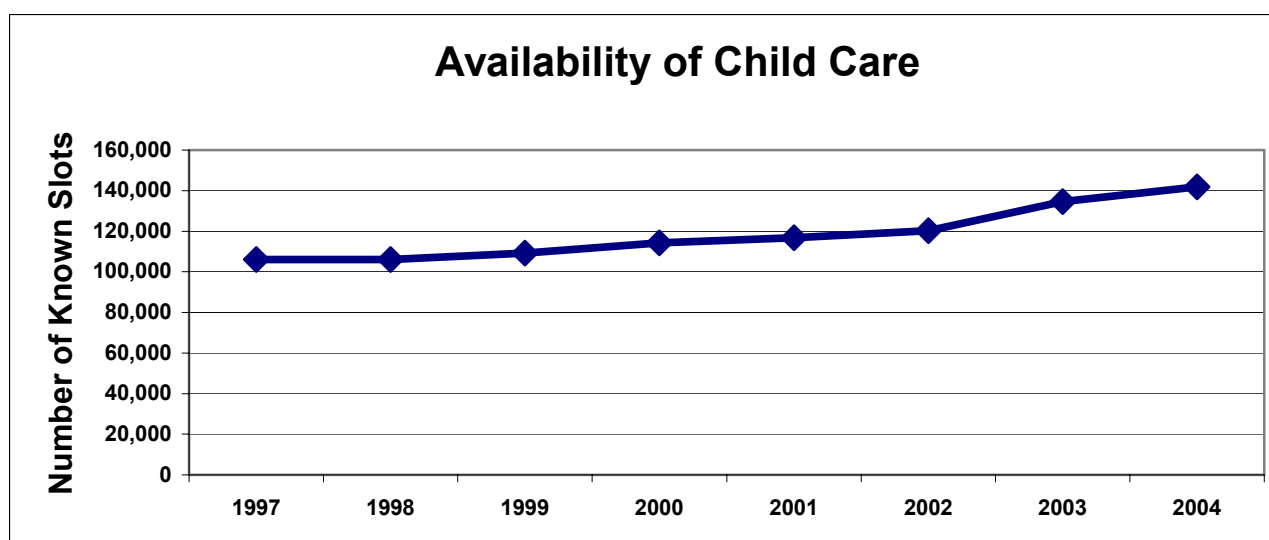
**Teen Birth Rate**



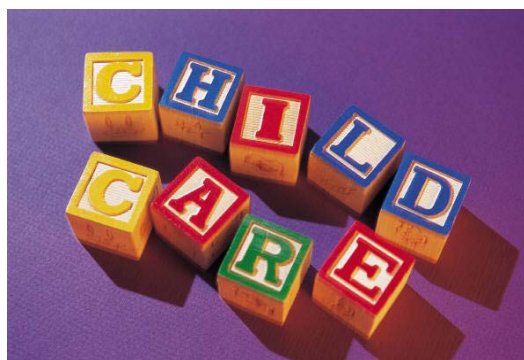
## State Results and Indicators

### Secure and Nurturing Child Care Environments

Research shows that high quality early care environments are positively related to children's later language, math, and behavior skills. Empowerment early childhood funds are targeted for specific quality enhancement activities. Technical assistance through training and mentoring helps child care providers deliver better care and education. Through Community Empowerment efforts, the numbers of centers, teachers, and family child care providers who participate in quality improvement activities have increased.



- Iowa ranks 4<sup>th</sup> for the percent of children under 6 years old with all parents in the labor force at 69.8 % (US Census 2003 American Community Survey)
- 18% of Iowa's children, 3 – 4 years of age, attend an accredited preschool or one meeting Head Start performance standards (Iowa Department of Education – June 2004)





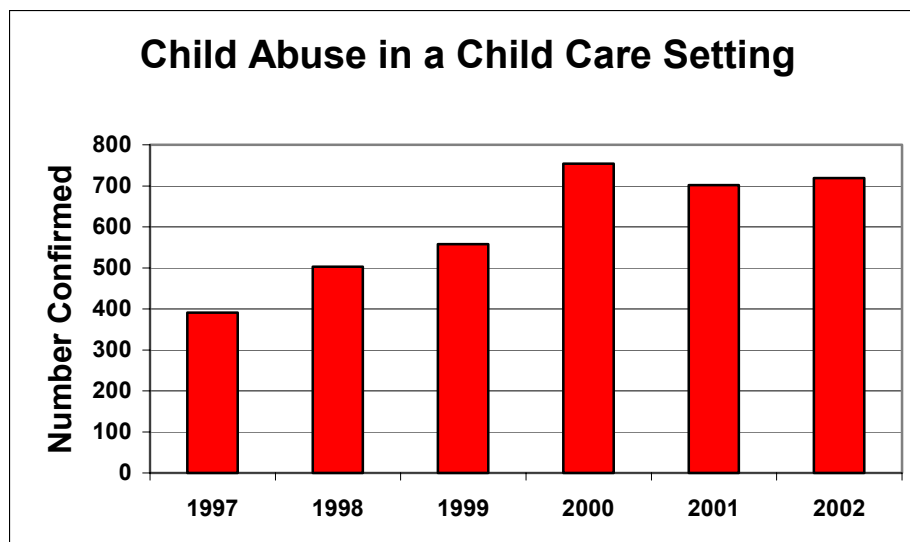
## State Results and Indicators

### Investigating a Child Care Quality Rating System

Iowa's current approach to recognizing quality child care includes registration for child development homes and licensing of child care centers. In addition, the Legislature has established the "Gold Seal" provider program which recognizes providers who achieve accreditation and maintain compliance with regulation. The *next step* for enhancing the quality of Iowa's child care is to implement a *voluntary* Quality Rating System for child care providers. Beginning in FY 2004, work began on planning for a voluntary child care quality rating system, with a report due to the legislature in December 2004. This system could have multiple levels that providers would achieve based on standards or achievements that are known to lead to positive child outcomes – these might include:

- Registered or licensed facility
- History of compliance with key health and safety standards
- Program characteristics such as group size, adult to child ratio, training beyond regulation requirements, etc.
- Education level of the provider(s)
- Achievement of national standards, such as accreditation with NAEYC (centers) or NAFCC (homes), or meeting Head Start Performance Standards

**Community Empowerment** is a partner in the planning for such a system.



## ***Head Start and Early Head Start***

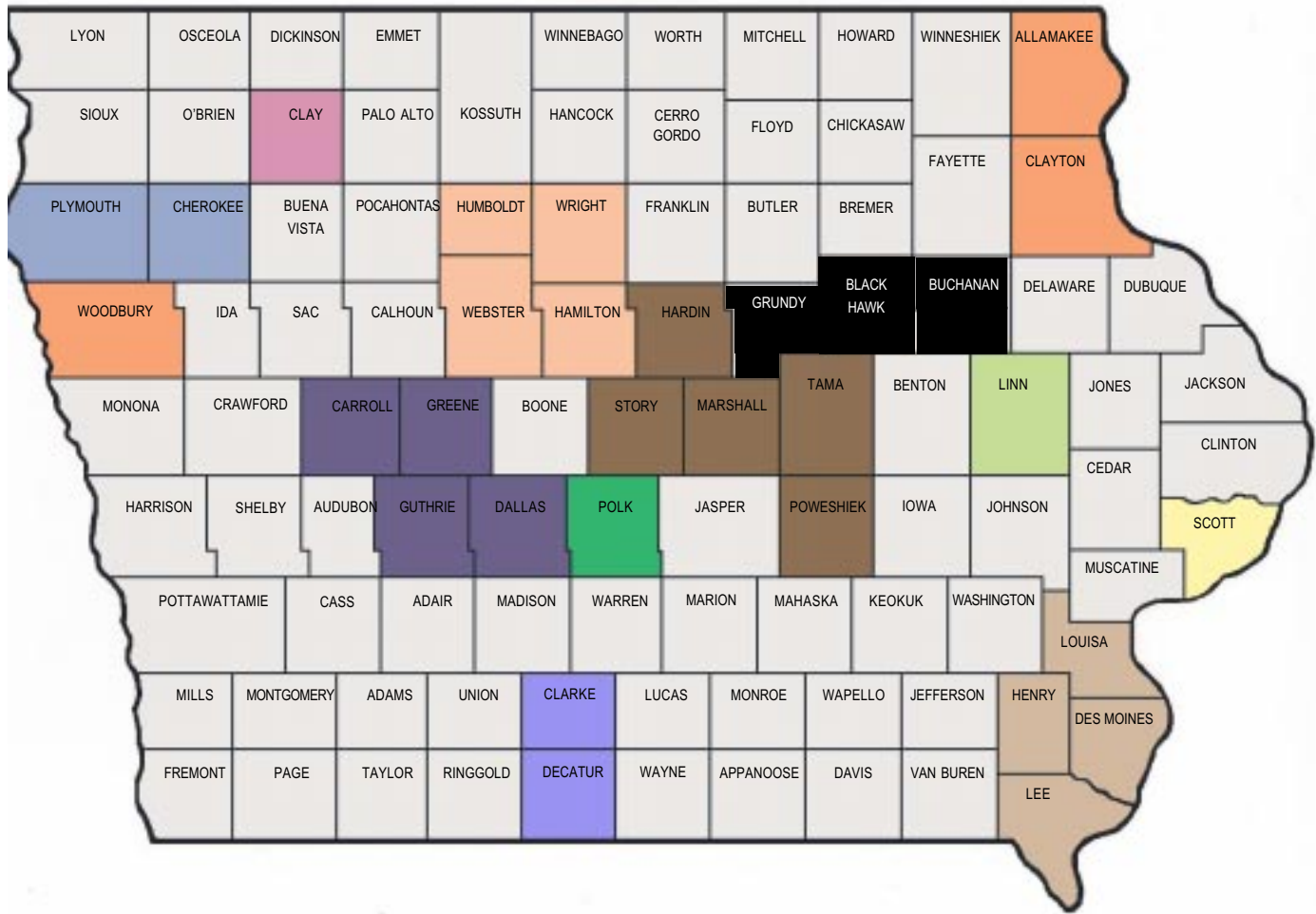
Program Name

Head Start, Early Head Start

Tom Rendon-Collaboration Office

Children /Families served (Birth to 5-year-olds)	9328 children (birth-5 years) [PIR 2004] 8,529 families Plus 67 pregnant women
Target audience	Children at 100% federal poverty level and at-risk factors or children with special needs (up to 10% of total enrollment). (Head Start and Early Head Start serves 60% of eligible children in Iowa, 0 to 5.)
Program purpose	A locally operated, federally funded program that provides a comprehensive child development program for 3 to 5-year-old children from low-income families in 98 of Iowa's 99 counties. The program provides services to promote academic, social and emotional development, as well as providing social, health and nutrition services. Early Head Start serves pregnant women and children birth to three with guidance, information and direct services to foster healthy development of children and their families.
Program description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of teachers</li> <li>• Number of programs</li> <li>• Number of trainers</li> </ul>	19 Head Start Programs (includes 1 delegate programs) 13 Early Head Start Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers: 467</li> <li>• Assistant teachers: 548</li> </ul>
Funding source/allocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FFY</li> <li>• SFY</li> </ul>	FFY: 2003 (approx.) \$52,000,000
Identifiable indicators of quality	Head Start Performance Standards <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/performance/">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/performance/</a>
Results (outcomes achieved)	From <i>Head Start FACES: Longitudinal Findings on Program Performance, 3<sup>rd</sup> progress report, 2001</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrows the gaps between disadvantaged children and all children in vocabulary and writing skills during the Head Start Year</li> <li>• Improves the social skills of Head Start children</li> <li>• Leads to continued improvement in word knowledge, letter recognition, math skills and writing skills by Head Start children relative to other children during the kindergarten</li> </ul> From H.S. Program Information Reports, PY2004: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with health insurance: 93%</li> <li>• Children with a medical home: 97%</li> <li>• Children with a dental home: 85%</li> <li>• Received dental exam: 72%</li> </ul>
DE role and collaborative efforts	Houses and manages <b>Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office</b> (\$125,000 annual grant through Head Start). Head Start State Collaboration Office supports the development of multi-agency and public/private partnerships at the State level to ensures the coordination of Head Start services with health care, welfare, child care, education and community service activities, family literacy services, services to

# Early Head Start Programs in Iowa



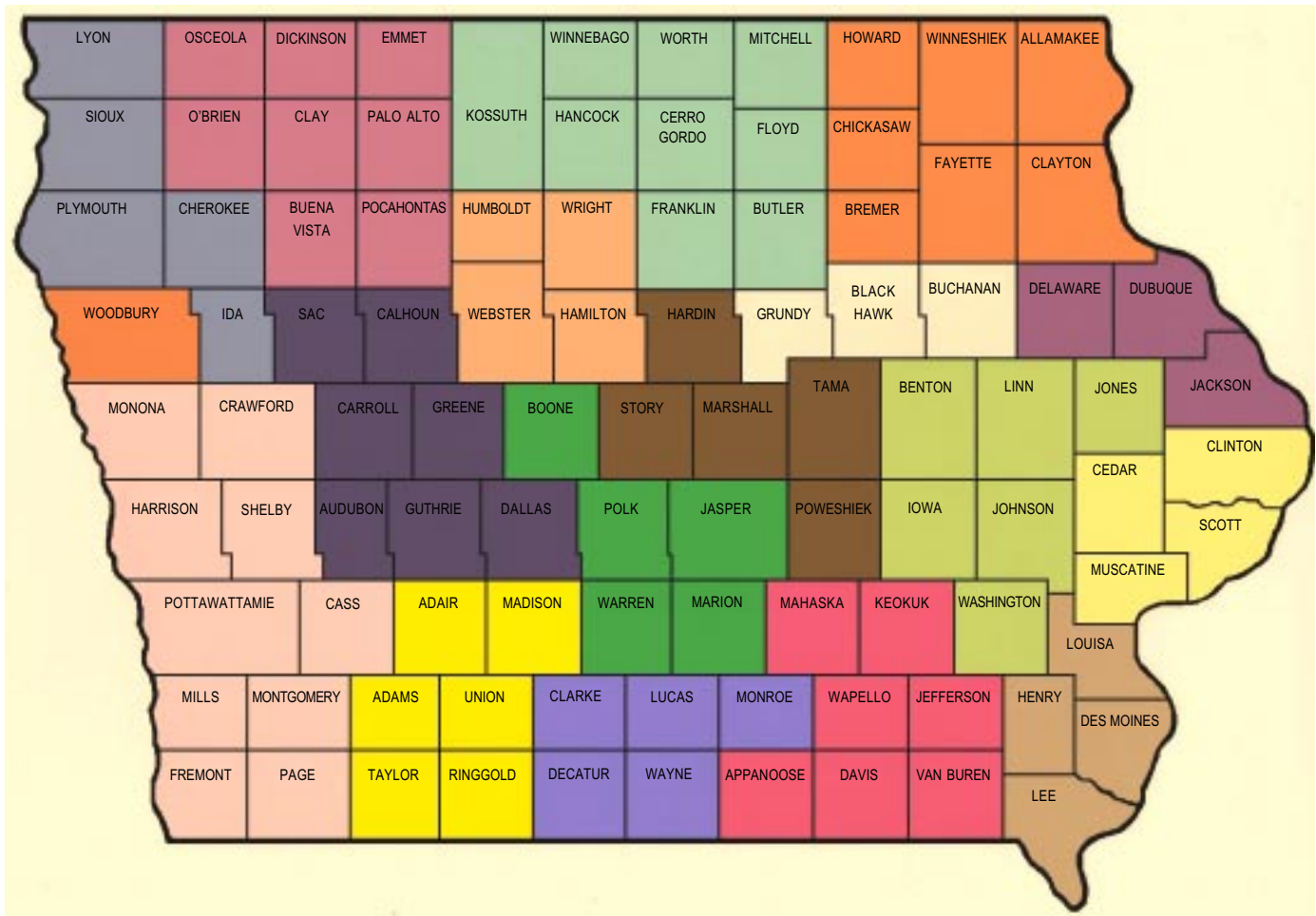
## AGENCY

## HEADQUARTERS PHONE

## COUNTIES SERVED

	Community Opportunities, Inc.	Carroll	712-792-9266	Carroll, Greene, Guthrie, Dallas
	Drake University Head Start	Des Moines	515-271-1854	Polk
	Hawkeye Area Comm. Action Prog., Inc.	Hiawatha	319-393-7811	Linn
	Iowa East Central Train	Davenport	563-324-3236	Scott
	Mid-Iowa Community Action Inc.	Marshalltown	641-752-7162	Hardin, Marshall, Tama, Poweshiek, Story
	Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.	Remsen	712-786-2001	Plymouth, Cherokee
	Northeast Iowa Community Action Corp.	Decorah	563-382-8436	Allamakee, Clayton
	South Central Iowa Comm. Action Program	Leon	641-446-4155	Clarke, Decatur
	Community Action of Southeast Iowa	Burlington	319-753-0193	Louisa, Henry, Lee, Des Moines
	Tri-County Head Start	Waterloo	319-235-0383	Grundy, Blackhawk, Buchanan
	Upper Des Moines Opportunities, Inc.	Graettinger	1-800-245-6151	Clay
	Community Action of Siouxland	Sioux City	712-274-1610	Woodbury
	Your Own United Resources, Inc.	Fort Dodge	515-573-2453	Humboldt, Webster, Wright, Hamilton


# Head Start Programs in Iowa



## AGENCY

## HEADQUARTERS PHONE

## COUNTIES SERVED

	*Community Action of Siouxland	Sioux City 712-274-1610	Woodbury
	*Community Action of Southeast Iowa	Burlington 319-753-0193	Louisa, Henry, Lee, Des Moines
	*Community Opportunities, Inc.	Carroll 712-792-9266	Sac, Calhoun, Carroll, Greene, Audubon, Guthrie, Dallas
	*Drake University Head Start	Des Moines 515-271-1854	Boone, Polk, Warren, Jasper, Marion, *Ames
	*Hawkeye Area Comm. Act. Prog., Inc.	Hiawatha 319-393-7811	Benton, Iowa, Linn, Johnson, Jones, Washington
	*Iowa East Central Train	Davenport 563-324-3236	Cedar, Muscatine, Clinton, Scott
	Matura Action Corporation	Creston 641-782-8431	Adair, Madison, Adams, Union, Taylor, Ringgold
	*Mid-Iowa Community Action Inc.	Marshalltown 641-752-7162	Hardin, Marshall, Tama, Poweshiek, Story
	*Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.	Remsen 712-786-2001	Sioux, Plymouth, Cherokee, Ida, Lyon
	North Iowa Community Action Organization	Mason City 641-494-1891	Kossuth, Winnebago, Hancock, Worth, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Mitchell, Floyd, Butler
	*Northeast Iowa Community Action Corp.	Decorah 563-382-8436	Howard, Chickasaw, Bremer, Winneshiek, Fayette, Allamakee, Clayton
	Operation New View Head Start	Dubuque 563-556-5130	Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson
	*South Central Iowa Comm. Action Program	Leon 641-446-4155	Clarke, Lucas, Decatur, Wayne, Monroe
	Southern Iowa Economic Dev. Association	Ottumwa 641-682-8741	Mahaska, Keokuk, Wapello, Jefferson, Davis, Van Buren, Appanoose
	*Tri-County Head Start	Waterloo 319-235-0383	Grundy, Blackhawk, Buchanan
	*Upper Des Moines Opportunities, Inc.	Graettinger 1-800-245-6151	Osceola, O'Brien, Dickinson, Clay, Buena Vista, Emmet, Palo Alto, Pocahontas
	West Central Development Corporation	Moorhead 712-886-5218	Monona, Crawford, Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Cass, Mills, Montgomery, Fremont, Page
	*Your Own United Resources, Inc.	Fort Dodge 515-573-2453	Humboldt, Webster, Wright, Hamilton

\*Denotes Agencies with Early Head Start Program

homeless families, and activities relating to children with disabilities.

## ***Shared Visions Family Support Grants***

Program Name	Shared Visions, Family Education and Support Grants
	Penny Milburn, Shared Visions Program Coordinator
Children /Families served (Birth to 5-year-olds)	1.495 Children ages 0-3 (SFY)
Target audience	Children in families with incomes below 130% poverty threshold or other secondary at-risk factors
Program purpose	Family support programs ensure the delivery of quality, family-centered comprehensive early childhood services.
Program description	Family support and prevention programs which focus on: parenting skills, child growth and development, building of self-concept, nutrition, positive guidance techniques, family resource management, parent literacy, and how to access the array of supportive services from a network of agencies that are available to families with young children who are at risk.
Funding source/allocation	
• FFY	
• SFY	\$728,972 SFY
Identifiable indicators of quality	Healthy children-at least 92% of the children have appropriate immunizations while 85% have health insurance. Self sufficient families Safe and supportive communities Secure and nurturing families Qualified staff— All family support staff has at least an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in early childhood education social services or nursing. About 86% of the staff has a Bachelor's degree with two individuals holding a Master's or Doctoral degree.
Results (outcomes achieved)	Increased levels of family self-sufficiency Increased healthy development as evidenced by 92% of the children being fully immunized and receiving developmental screening. Reduced levels of family violence
DE role and collaborative efforts	DE administers grants and works with the Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) to determine quality indicators that support high quality. DE provides technical assistance to the grantees related to curriculum, and administration.

## *Shared Visions Preschools*

Program Name	Shared Visions Preschool Grants
Children /Families served (Birth to 5-year-olds)	2405 children ages 3-5
Target audience	Children in families with incomes below 130% poverty threshold or other secondary at-risk factors
Program purpose	The Shared Visions programs ensure the delivery of quality, family-centered comprehensive early childhood services to prepare children for school.
Program description	<p>Shared visions programs provide early learning opportunities for Iowa's young children from eligible families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 109 grantees with classes but some have more than one site or classroom.</li> <li>• Approximately 115 teachers. Some programs have multiple sites and thus more than one teacher.</li> <li>• Approximately 120 teacher associates</li> </ul>
Funding source/allocation • SFY	\$6,905,207
Identifiable indicators of quality	<p>About 79% of Shared Visions preschool teachers have a four-year degree with the majority of the teachers holding a degree in early childhood education.</p> <p>Shared Visions preschool programs are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), an accreditation process that demonstrates a high standard of quality and developmentally appropriate practices. Of the approximately 172 early childhood programs accredited by NAEYC in Iowa, 109 are Shared Visions preschools.</p> <p>Additional indicators of quality as measured by the ECERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Interactions between teachers and children promote social skills and problem solving</i></b>—approximately 70% of programs scored in the excellent range</li> <li>• <b><i>Program structure balances teacher directed and child selected activities</i></b>— approximately 60% of programs scored in the excellent range</li> <li>• <b><i>Personal care routines that promote health and safety standards</i></b>—over 50% of programs scored in the excellent range</li> </ul>
Results (outcomes achieved)	<p>Shared Visions preschool programs rate very favorable when compared to programs nationwide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iowa programs' average rating was 5.56 versus the national average of 4.26 (scale of 1-7 with 5 being <i>good</i> and 7 being <i>excellent</i>).</li> <li>• Approximately 70% of Iowa programs were considered good quality as compared to less than 20% of programs nationwide (<i>The Cost, Quality, and Outcomes Study</i>, 1999, National Center on Early Development and Learning).</li> </ul>

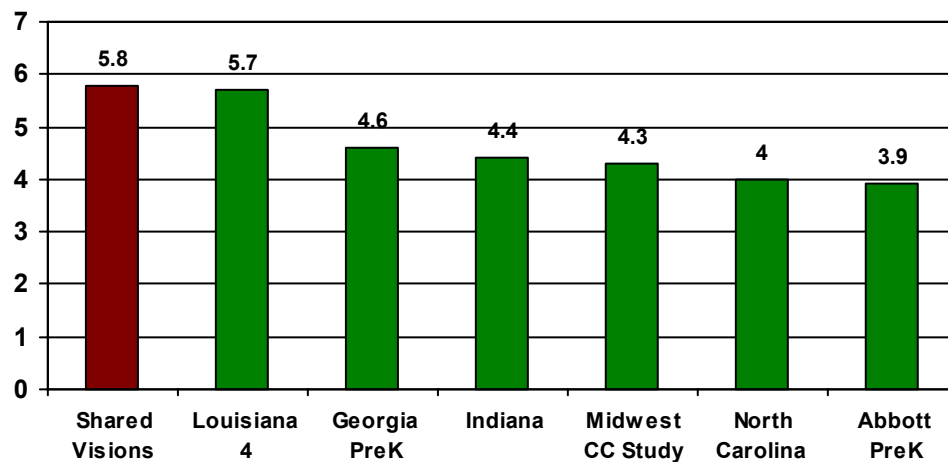
Research indicates:

- **Kindergarten Readiness** - Shared Visions graduates met or exceeded kindergarten teachers' performance expectations in reading, writing, and problem solving (Zan & Edmiaston, 2002).
- **Academic performance** - Over 80% of the Shared Visions graduates were rated at or above average in reading and writing at the end of kindergarten (Zan & Edmiaston, 2002).
- **Special Education Referrals** - Fewer than 8% of Shared Visions graduates were receiving special education services by the end of kindergarten (Zan & Edmiaston, 2002).
- **Long-term Effect** - Second grade teachers rated Shared Visions graduates higher on internal assets, including positive values, social competencies, and positive identity, than children who did not participate in Shared Visions programs (Regents' Center for Early Developmental Education, 2002, unpublished data).

DE role and collaborative efforts

DE administers grants and works with the Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) to determine quality indicators that support high quality. DE provides technical assistance to the grantees related to NAEYC accreditation, curriculum, and administration.

**Figure 1— Comparison of ECERS-R Scores For Iowa Shared Visions Preschools Compared to Other U.S. Early Care and Education Studies**



Description for Figure 1—Results of the ECERS-R scores for Iowa's Shared Visions preschool programs were compared to other state funded prekindergarten programs. Shared Visions preschools fared well.

**Figure 2—Distribution of Shared Visions Preschool Program Across Quality Categories**

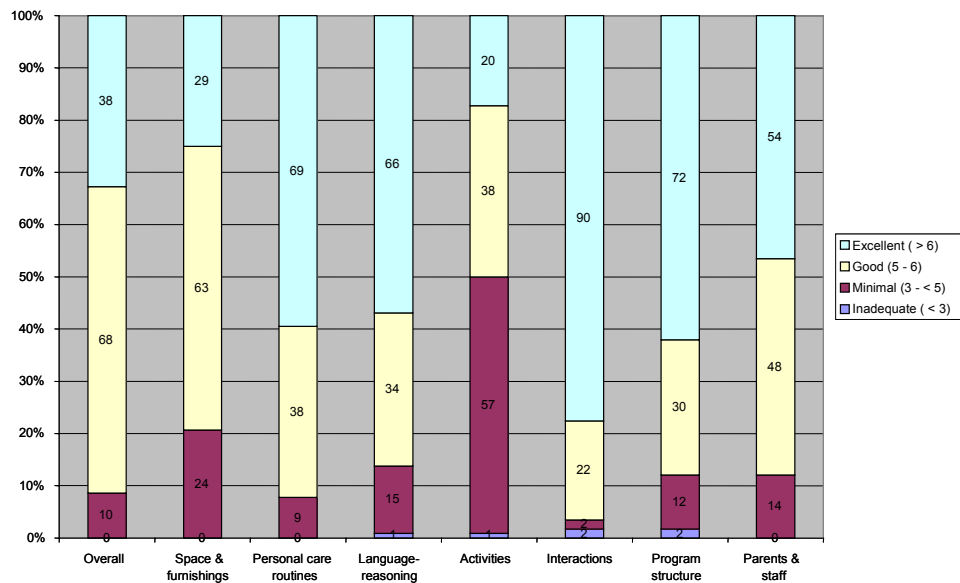


Figure 2 represents the quality of Shared Visions Preschool Programs in each of the seven areas of program quality measured by the ECERS-R. The level of quality (inadequate to excellent) is represented by four different colors while the number located in each colored bar represents the number of programs out of the 116 classrooms that received that level of quality. The overall score indicates that 38 programs received an excellent rating or about 33% of the programs, while 68 programs or 59% received a good rating. Only 10 programs or 8% received a minimal rating.

